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Guide for Search and Identification of Corners by Field Personnel

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE

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In accordance with IM No. CA-82-313 dated August 6, 1982, Cadastral Survey has developed the following suggested instructions to carry out the remonumentation program on BLM administered lands.

If clarification of these instructions, or information concerning training of district personnel is needed, please contact the cadastral survey office in Sacramento.

I. Planning the remonumentation projects after FY-84.

1. Select areas that are of high priority for the administration of resources (timber sales, energy, recreation, etc.) but not scheduled for cadastral survey in the near future, and where the locating and remonumentation of the required boundary monuments would enable the district project to progress.

2. Obtain all essential previous survey data, copies of local surveys, BLM resurveys and the original survey notes and plats.

3. Obtain ownership status maps or diagrams depicting the needed section corner required to control the projects.

4. Obtain all forms and signs needed to marks the originals found.
   Forms CSO 9600-4 and CSO 9600-5
   Bearing Tree Tags (BLM S-9)
   Location Tags (BLM S-8)
   (See attached examples.)

II. Preparation: Aids In Locating the Corners to be Remonumented:

1. Aerial photographs are a useful tool to locate roads, fence lines and other calls of record and to verify questionable corner evidences. Search areas accurately marked on the photographs greatly facilitate corner search on the ground.

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WOODLAND, CA 95776

2. Quadrangles and other maps may be used for locating and symbolizing found, searched for and not found corners. A number of methods may be used before the search is discontinued and the corner given up as lost. The amount of time to be spent searching for any one corner cannot be stipulated; it will vary with different conditions and must be left to the good judgment of the searcher.

III. Fieldwork

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED THAT IMPORTANT EVIDENCE IS NOT DESTROYED DURING THE SEARCH. Such evidence as pieces of the original wood post, the hole occupied by a burned or rotted post, pieces of a bearing tree or corner blaze or blaze overgrowth, chisel marks on a stone corner monument, and even a scattered mound of stone are important evidence and extreme care must be exercised that these are not destroyed or unnecessarily disturbed. All original bearing trees recovered during the search should be tagged with a bearing tree sign (Sign BLM S-9) about 6 feet above the ground.

All fallen bearing trees and stumps, if identified, should also be tagged. Do not hang tags unless identification is positive. No approximate points are to be tagged.

Overgrown blazes should not be opened by the corner search team unless an experienced corner searcher is along and it is absolutely necessary to identify the corner. If a bearing tree is opened, a ring count should be made to determine the age of the blaze (face). Never cut open more than one bearing tree at a corner. If trees with overgrown blazes are found in the search area and are not cut open because of lack of experience on the crew they should be flagged and a corner search card filled out so a qualified person can examine the tree.

With experience, searchers soon develop their own system of search. Some prefer to circle the flagged point in a widening spiral; others prefer to crisscross in a grid pattern.

Regardless of the system used, it must insure a thorough search with effective use of time and information.

IV. Documenting Evidence

Adequate action must be taken to "mark up" the corner location when recovered so it will be readily apparent when the remonumentation crew returns to the corner.

A complete record of evidence found, or lack of evidence, must be made before leaving the corner search area. A complete description of action taken to "mark up" the corner location to protect and preserve existing corner evidence should be made.

It is, of course, of equal importance to prepare this record in instances where no evidence is found. A statement of search techniques used and amount of time spent in the search should be included if no evidence is found.

The form 9600-4, properly filled out on the spot, provides the most acceptable and reliable record.

To assist the corner remonumentation crew in going to the corner point location with minimum lost motion, it is important to fully describe how to reach the corner. The route of foot travel should be "flagged out" by attaching intervisible plastic ribbon to tree limbs, brush, etc. from the corner to the road. The "take off" point along the road should be well marked with flagging and a location poster (BLM S-8) should be nailed to a tree. If the "take off" point is on or very near a section line or subdivision line a tack should be driven at the proper point on the poster.

Distance and bearing (determined by compass and pacing or scaling from map) from the poster to the corner should be shown on the poster. If the poster is not on a section line or subdivision line do not put a tack in it. Just put the bearing and distance on. If possible, a member of the search party should be assigned to the cadastral remonumentation crew to ensure locating the corner with the least effort.

Use of Record File Guide - CSO 9600-5

Explanation of Symbols:

Evidence believed acceptable = if you find a stone, post, mound of stone, a tree (or trees) with overgrown blazes, or scribing.

Possible evidence = mound of stone, stumps or stump holes, etc.

No evidence found = the search revealed that everything is gone due to fire, logging, etc. (always state this on the card)

Local Monument (no cap) = a hollow pipe, a disk on wooden plug in a pipe, etc.

Local Monument (with cap) = a pipe with a cap that is marked, a steel rod with a large disk marked, etc.

Remonumented by BLM = iron post that was set by BLM (after we remonument a corner, you will change the symbol to a darkened circle.)

If no one has been to the corner, there will be no symbol on the index card.

Make sure the right symbols are put on the index card for the corner card that it relates to. The system of indexing is set up to make it easier for a person to find a certain corner write-up and also to show if there was anything found at a corner without going through the cards.

Samples of indexing system follow:

A-1 is the NW corner of sec. 6
A-3 is the N 1/4 corner of sec. 6.
C-1 is the W 1/2 corner of sec. 6.
C-5 is the 1/4 corner between secs. 5 and 6.

The indexing system also provides for recordation of 1/16 corners.

The Corner Record Cards (9600-4) are filed behind the Corner Record File Guide (9600-5) in the following order:

A-1 through A-25, B-1 through B-25, etc.

Use of Corner Record Card - CSO 9600-4

The corner record card should be written up so that the next person is able to read the card and know exactly what you mean.

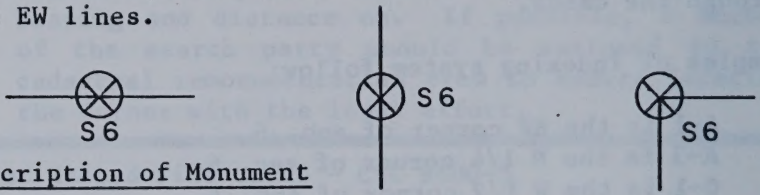
Index File No.

The index file number for a certain corner should be the same as on the index card. If it is the NW corner of section 6, it is A-1 and will be the first card in the index.

Corner Diagram

Draw a cross for section corner, a straight line for 1/4 corner, add the symbol that matches the evidence that you have found. If it is the NW corner of the

section, put the 6 in the SE quadrant and the symbol at the intersection of the cross. If it is the W 1/4, there will be a vertical line through the center of the diagram with the number 6 on the E 1/2 and the symbol through the center of the line. The same for the EW lines.



Description of Monument

Record Copy what is written in the original field notes.

Found Write down just what you see on the ground. If there is a mound of stone or a corner stone, do not disturb them. Leave evidence just as you found it.

Bearing Trees or Other Official Accessories

Record Write down what the original notes call for.

Found Write down just what you see - pine stump, fir snag, sawed stump, rotted stump, stump hole, etc. Do not omit the size or anything else that may assist someone else. Do not cut into any bearing trees or disturb any scribing.

Description of Corner Location

Describe the slope on which the corner is located and how far the corner is from a road, creek, or spur. Put the "K" tag (Location Poster) on the road stating where the corner is from the road and what kind of tree to look for.

CORNER RECORD
MS HES Tract

Use of Corner Record MS HES Tract - CSO

The Corner Record cards for MS HES Tract (9600-6) are similar to the Corner Search cards (9600-4), except a survey No. replaces the index number. Draw a circle around MS, HES, or Tract to indicate whether you are talking about a Mineral Survey, Homestead, or a Tract. Draw a diagram of the claim just like it is shown on the original plat. Then, draw a symbol at each corner that corresponds with what you find. Make sure you draw a line to represent North on the left side of the survey diagram.

Photo Identification and USGS Quad Map Data

Any information that you can provide in these sections will be a great time-saver for the next person referring to the card or searching for the corner.

Legible Marks on Bearing Objects (Back of Card)

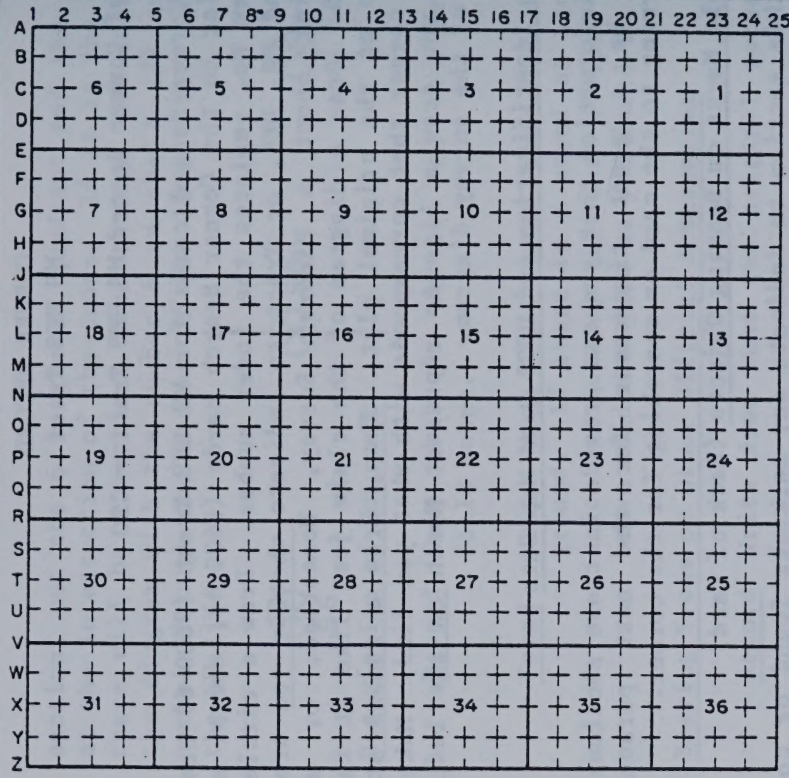
Use this section to indicate any markings found or to draw an overgrown blaze.

Remarks (Back of Card)

This section is for your use to provide any additional pertinent information. This section may also be used if more space is needed to complete the corner location description.

Do not use the remaining portions on the reverse side of the card regarding monumentation and accessories unless the remonumentation is done by contract and there is a proper corner set with a marked cap and new bearing trees are taken. Check County records to see if the corner has been recorded, if so, write down the data on the card; also state if not recorded.

T_____ R_____ M_____ | T_____ R_____ M_____ | T_____ R_____ M_____



LEGEND

- ⊗ Evidence believed acceptable for remonumentation
- ◒ Possible evidence
- ○ No evidence found
- □ Local monument (no cap)
- ■ Local monument (w/cap)
- ● Remonumented by BLM

FILING INSTRUCTION

File 9600-4 card record by letter and number coordinates behind the file guide for the township in which it falls.

File the 9600-4 card record by letter and then by number i.e., all A cards first, then B cards etc.

The first card behind the file guide (if data have been obtained and recorded) will be card A-1 for N. W. Township Corner, then card A-2 for 1/16 corner then card A-3 for 1/4 corner etc.

CORNER RECORD FILE GUIDE (Rectangular Surveys)

CSO 9600-5 (2/79)

11

T. 27 S., R. 33 E., M. D. M.

74.00 Top of Ridge. bears N. W. and S.E. and descend
80.00 Set a Granite Stone 20 x 10 x 10 ins. 15 ins. in the Ground. for Corner Secs. 10. 11. 14. 15 Marked With 4 Notches on S. and 2 Notches on E. edges. and raised a mound of Stone. from which a Yellow pine 16 ins. diam. bears N 50° E. 49 lks. dist
a yellow pine 24 ins. diam. bears. N. 25° W. 21 lks. dist
a X marked on Rock. bears S. 48° W 22 lks. dist
a Yellow pine 14 ins. diam. bears. S. 30° E. 19 lks. dist

East. on a random line Between Sections 11 and 14
Variation 15° 25' E....

1.75 Descend
40.00 Set Temporary ¼ Sec. Cor.
48.50 Cross Gulch. 20 lks. Wide. Course S.E. and ascend
80.15 Intersect N and S. Line. 28 lks. South of Cor. to Secs. 11. 12. 13. 14. from which Corner Bears S 89° 48' W. a true line Between Sections. 11 and 14

U.S. Dept. of Interior

CORNER RECORD (SEARCH)

Index
File No. _____

Section: 10 Cor.: SE

T. 27 S R. 33 E District BAKERSFIELD County KERN State CA 1

Merid. MOUNT DIABLO

CORNER DIAGRAM

N

6

DESCRIPTION OF MONUMENT:

Record:
GRANIT STONE 20x10x10 INS 15 INS IN GROUND WITH 4 NOTCHES ON S. AND 2 NOTCHES ON E. EDGE AND RAISED A MOUND OF STONE.

Found:

2

DESCRIBE BEARING TREES OR OTHER OFFICIAL ACCESSORIES

Record:
Y PINE 10" N.50°E. 49 LKS DIST
Y PINE 24" N.25°W 12 LKS DIST
A x MKD ON ROCK S.24°W. 22 LKS
Y PINE 14" S.30°E. 19 LKS DIST

Found:

Also see diagram reverse side of card (item 12)

3

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION DATA
Photo No. _____
Filed At _____
Object Ident. _____
Ident. By _____
Signature

7

DESCRIBE CORNER LOCATION RELATIVE TO NEAR-BY FEATURES, ALSO HOW TO REACH CORNER

See USGS QUAD MAP for

Lat.: _____

Long.: _____

8

4

Signature | Title | Division | Headquarters | Date

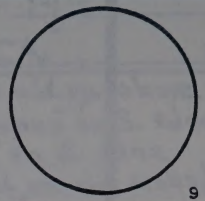
CSO 9600-4 2/79

10

CORNER RECORD (PERPETUATION)

MONUMENT - DESCRIBE NEW MONUMENT SET, OR WORK DONE TO PRESERVE EXISTING MONUMENT

Marked :



9

ACCESSORIES: DESCRIBE NEW BT's, WITNESS OBJECTS ETC., ESTABLISHED OR WORK DONE TO PRESERVE EXISTING EVIDENCE

10

WORK DONE BY _____ TITLE _____ DATE _____ STATE REGISTRATION No. OR AGENCY _____

CERTIFIED COR. RECORD PREPARED ? YES NO FILED AT: DATE 11

LEGIBLE MARKS ON BEARING OBJECTS

KIND				
SIZE				
BEARING				
DISTANCE				

REMARKS

12

11

N

U.S. Dept. of Interior

CORNER RECORD (SEARCH)

Index File No. J-17

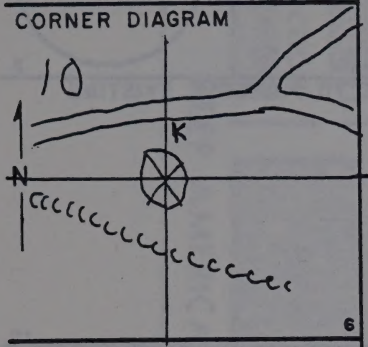
Section: 10 Cor.: SE

T. 27S R. 33E

District Bakersfield County Kern State CA. 1

Merid. Mount Diable

CORNER DIAGRAM



6

DESCRIPTION OF MONUMENT:

Record: Granite Stone 20x10x10 ins. 15 ins. in ground with 4 Notches on S. and 2 Notches on E. Edge and raise a Mound of stone

Found: Granite stone 8x10x6 ins. above ground, with 4 Notches on S. edge, No visible Marks on E. edge, Sets in the center of an old Mound of Stone

2

DESCRIBE BEARING TREES OR OTHER OFFICIAL ACCESSORIES

Record: V. Pine 10" N50°E., 49 lks.
V. Pine 24" N25°W. 21 "
A X Mkd. on a rock S48°W. 22 lks.
V. Pine 14" S30°E., 19 lks.

Found: P. Pine Snag, 20" N44°E., 49 lks. dist.,
P. Pine, 38" N25°W. 21 " "
A boulder, 3x6x4 Ft. above ground S48°W 22 lks. Mkd. BXO
Sawed Pine Stump, 21" S35°E., 24 lks. dist.

Also see diagram reverse side of card (Item 12) Over → 3

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION DATA

Photo No. _____

Filed At _____

Object Ident. _____

Ident. By _____

Signature 7

See USGS QUAD MAP for

Lat.: _____

Long.: _____

8

DESCRIBE CORNER LOCATION RELATIVE TO NEAR-BY FEATURES, ALSO HOW TO REACH CORNER Sets on a gradual N. Slope 6 chs. N. of a Ridge bearing NW. and SE. 2 lks. E. of a barbed wire fence (3 strand) bearing N. and S. Drive E. on gravel road 4/10 Mile past the Saddle To K Tag on a P. Pine, 36" diam., on S. side of road Corner bears S. 3 chs. dist.

4

Signature	Title	Division	Headquarters	Date
Roy Jones	Eng. Aid	Eng.	Bakersfield	2-1-80

CSO 9600-4 2/79

13

CORNER RECORD (PERPETUATION)

MONUMENT: DESCRIBE NEW MONUMENT SET, OR WORK DONE TO PRESERVE EXISTING MONUMENT

Marked:

9

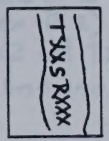
ACCESSORIES: DESCRIBE NEW BT's, WITNESS OBJECTS ETC., ESTABLISHED OR WORK DONE TO PRESERVE EXISTING EVIDENCE

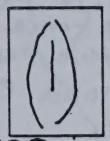
10

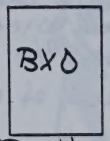
WORK DONE BY _____ TITLE _____ DATE _____ STATE REGISTRATION No. OR AGENCY _____

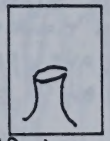
CERTIFIED COR. RECORD PREPARED ? YES NO FILED AT: DATE 11

LEGIBLE MARKS ON BEARING OBJECTS









KIND	P. Snag	P. Pine	Boulder	P. Stump
SIZE	20 ins.	38 ins.	3X6X4 Ft	21 ins.
BEARING	N44E	N25°W	S48°W	S35°E
DISTANCE	49 lks.	21 lks.	22 lks	24 lks.

REMARKS

12

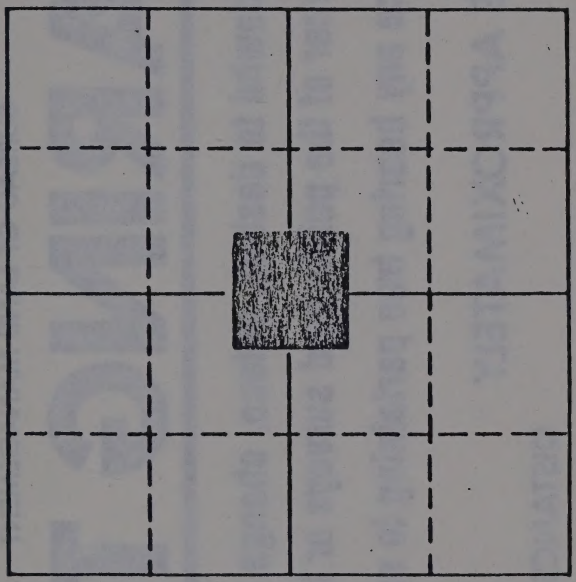
14

S–8
(Sept. 1976)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

T. [redacted] R. [redacted] SEC. [redacted]

TACK SHOWS APPROXIMATE POSTER LOCATION



CORNER IS [redacted] FT.
DIRECTION [redacted]

HOW LOCATED [redacted]

BY [redacted]
DATE [redacted]

KEEP AMERICA GREEN

S-9
(July 1970)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BEARING TREE

It is unlawful to destroy, deface, change or remove any corner of the public land surveys or to cut down or deface any bearing tree pertaining to such surveys

CORNER IS APPROXIMATELY

DISTANCE DIRECTION

T. R. SEC. POSTED BY DATE

BLM CA TD
83 001 9600

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